

### Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve

Sukla Phanta Wildlife reserve, earlier a hunting reserve, covers an area of 155 km<sup>2</sup> in the farwest Nepal. With area extension in the late eighties, the reserve is now approximately 305 km<sup>2</sup>. Although the area of the reserve is small, it supports a wide range of flora and fauna having national and global importance. The vegetation types primarily includes sal forest, sal savannah, which is a part of a continuum between climax forest and grassland that is maintained by fire and floods. Prominent wetlands are Rani Tal, Sikari Tal, Tarapunal, and Kaliktch. The reserve has the world's largest population of swamp deer (about 2500), tigers, elephants, nilgai, hispid hare, and others. The reserve also supports 268 species of birds.

Maintenance of several wetlands and habitat management of grasslands perhaps may become necessary. Over 7000 households benefit from the annual grass cutting each year. Conflicts between the Reserve and the people result primarily from crop damage, livestock depredation and the loss of life.

In collaboration with the Reserve, Resources Himalaya has prepared its management plan.

